

Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A method for managing data in a source file of the type from which data may be extracted for use in an application wherein the source file data is described by an extensible markup language, the method comprising:

structuring the data in the form of objects, wherein components of the objects can be stored in first files, wherein the components each represent a logical unit of an object; and

providing a second file having a first mechanism for referencing the components as a higher-order, object-based logical level for storing and selectively directly accessing the objects, the foregoing providing hierarchical structuring of object complexes and distribution of data of objects among a plurality of files to enable a reading-in tool to pass over or avoid having to read or process portions of the source file data when seeking other portions of the source file data for use in the application.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the components are themselves objects.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the components are stored in object-specific generic containers, and wherein the containers are provided for referencing the respective object.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the extensible markup language is XML.

11. (currently amended) A system for managing data in a source file of the type from which data may be extracted for use in an application wherein the source file data is described by an extensible markup language, wherein objects for structuring the data are provided, wherein components of the objects can be stored in first files, wherein the components each represent a logical unit of an object, and wherein a second file having first mechanisms for referencing the components is provided as a higher-order, object-based logical level for storing the objects, wherein the first files and the second file are arranged in a hierarchical structure with a distribution of data of objects among a plurality of the first files to enable a reading-in tool to pass over or avoid having to read or process portions of the source file data when seeking other portions of the source file data for use in the application.

12. (previously presented) The system according to claim 11, wherein the components are themselves objects.

13. (previously presented) The system according to claim 11, wherein object-specific generic containers are provided for storing the components of the objects, with said containers serving to reference the respective object.

14. (previously presented) The system according to claim 11, wherein the extensible markup language is XML.

15. (currently amended) A system for managing data in a source file of the type from which data may be extracted for use in an application wherein the source file data is described by an extensible markup language, the system comprising:

objects for structuring the data;

a first plurality of files for storing components of the objects, wherein the components each represent a logical unit of an object; and

a second file having a first mechanism for referencing the components as a superordinate, object-based logical level for storing the objects wherein the first files and the second file form a hierarchical structure with a distribution of data of objects among the first files to enable a reading-in tool to pass over or avoid having to read or process portions of the source file data when seeking other portions of the source file data for use in the application.

16. (previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the components are themselves objects.

17. (previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein object-specific generic containers are provided for storing the components of the objects, wherein said containers serving to reference the respective object.

18. (previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the extensible markup language is XML.